

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims below is intended to replace all prior listings of claims presented in the above-identified application.

1. to 92. (Canceled)

93. (Currently Amended) A DNA construct comprising:

a plurality of fragments of ~~trait~~ DNA molecules at least some of which have a length that is independently insufficient to impart ~~that a~~ trait to plants transformed with that fragment of a ~~trait~~ the DNA molecule, wherein at least some of the fragments of ~~trait~~ the DNA molecules are at least 110 nucleotides in length but are less than a full-length cDNA, said plurality of fragments of ~~trait~~ the DNA molecules collectively are at least 510 nucleotides in length and impart their traits to plants transformed with said DNA construct and effect silencing of the DNA construct, wherein at least one of the fragments of ~~trait~~ DNA molecules is derived from a DNA molecule encoding a papaya ringspot virus coat protein;

a single promoter sequence which effects transcription of the plurality of fragments of ~~trait~~ the DNA molecules; and

a single termination sequence which ends transcription of the plurality of fragments of ~~trait~~ the DNA molecules.

94. (Canceled)

95. (Previously Presented) An expression system comprising the DNA construct according to claim 93.

96. (Previously Presented) A host cell transformed with the DNA construct according to claim 93.

97. (Currently Amended) The host cell according to claim 96, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, a ~~virus~~, a yeast cell, and a plant cell.

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98. (Previously Presented) A transgenic plant transformed with the DNA construct according to claim 93.

99. (Previously Presented) The transgenic plant according to claim 98, wherein the plant is papaya.

100. (Previously Presented) A transgenic plant seed transformed with the DNA construct according to claim 93.

101. (Previously Presented) The transgenic plant seed according to claim 100, wherein the plant is papaya.

102. (Currently Amended) A DNA construct comprising:
a fragment of a ~~trait~~ first DNA molecule which has a length that is insufficient to independently impart a desired trait to plants transformed with said fragment of a ~~trait~~ the first DNA molecule, wherein the fragment of a ~~trait~~ the first molecule is derived from a DNA molecule encoding a papaya ringspot virus coat protein and is at least 110 nucleotides in length;

a ~~silencer~~ second DNA molecule effective to achieve post-transcriptional gene silencing of said fragment of a ~~trait~~ the first DNA molecule coupled to said fragment of a ~~trait~~ the first DNA molecule, wherein the second DNA molecule is at least 400 nucleotides in length and said fragment of a ~~trait~~ the first DNA molecule and said ~~silencer~~ the second DNA molecule collectively impart the trait to plants transformed with said DNA construct;

a single promoter sequence which effects transcription of the fragment of a ~~trait~~ the first DNA molecule and the ~~silencer~~ second DNA molecule; and

a single termination sequence which ends transcription of the fragment of a ~~trait~~ the first DNA molecule and the ~~silencer~~ second DNA molecule.

103. (Canceled)

104. (Currently Amended) The DNA construct according to claim 102, wherein said ~~silencer~~ second DNA molecule is selected from the group consisting of a viral

DNA molecule, a fluorescence protein encoding DNA molecule, a ~~plant derived DNA molecule, a viral gene silencer,~~ and combinations thereof.

105. (Currently Amended) The DNA construct according to claim 102, wherein said fragment of a ~~trait~~ the first DNA molecule and said ~~silencer~~ the second DNA molecule encode RNA molecules which are translatable.

106. (Currently Amended) The DNA construct according to claim 102, wherein the DNA construct has been modified so that said fragment of a ~~trait~~ the first DNA molecule and said ~~silencer~~ the second DNA molecule are nontranslatable.

107. (Currently Amended) The DNA construct according to claim 102, wherein said construct effects post-transcriptional gene silencing of the fragment of ~~trait~~ the first DNA molecule within plants.

108. (Currently Amended) The DNA construct according to claim 102, wherein the fragment of a ~~trait~~ the first DNA molecule and ~~silencer~~ the second DNA molecule do not interact with one another.

109. (Currently Amended) The DNA construct according to claim 102, wherein the ~~silencer~~ second DNA molecule is positioned 3' to the fragment of a ~~trait~~ the first DNA molecule.

110. (Previously Presented) An expression vector comprising the DNA construct of claim 102.

111. (Previously Presented) A host cell transformed with the DNA construct according to claim 102.

112. (Currently Amended) The host cell according to claim 111, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, a ~~virus~~, a yeast cell, and a plant cell.

113. (Previously Presented) A transgenic plant transformed with the DNA construct according to claim 102.

114. (Currently Amended) The transgenic plant according to claim 113, wherein the ~~silencer~~ second DNA molecule is heterologous to the plant.

115. (Previously Presented) The transgenic plant according to claim 113, wherein the plant is papaya.

116. (Previously Presented) A transgenic plant seed transformed with the DNA construct according to claim 102.

117. (Previously Presented) The transgenic plant seed according to claim 116, wherein the plant is papaya.

118. (Previously Presented) A method of imparting papaya ringspot virus resistance to a plant comprising:
transforming the plant with the DNA construct according to claim 93, thereby imparting papaya ringspot virus resistance to the plant.

119. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 118, wherein the plant is papaya.

120. (Previously Presented) A method of imparting papaya ringspot virus resistance to a plant comprising:
transforming the plant with the DNA construct according to claim 102, thereby imparting papaya ringspot virus resistance to the plant.

121. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 120, wherein the plant is papaya.